

REMARKS

The Examiner's continued attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner rejected claims 36 and 37 as anticipated by Klose and claims 36, 40, and 42 as anticipated by Kalbskopf. The rejections are traversed.

The present invention is directed to a culture medium on or in which plants can be grown, which culture medium comprises a thermoplastic, biologically degradable binding agent.

Kalbskopf discloses a shaped article which is made of a mixture comprising a major content of carrier fibers that are not capable of being shaped by pressure or heat and a minor content of binding fibers of a thermoplastic synthetic material. Kalbskopf prefers thermoplastic synthetic materials having a glass transition temperature of 30-180°C, such as a copolymer of about 80-90% vinyl chloride and 10-20% vinyl acetate. This binding material is entirely different from the above-mentioned binding materials of the invention, which are required to be biologically degradable. The binding fibers of Kalbskopf would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art as not biologically degradable, and so the reference neither discloses nor suggests the present invention, but rather teaches away from it.

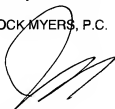
Klose discloses "Mineralwolle-Formkörper" to be used as a substrate to be used as a plant growing medium. As binding agent Klose employs aluminium metaphosphate. Such binding agent is hydrophobic, which means that it is water resistant as indicated in column 2, lines 5-7. This is, again, contrary to the present invention where the binding agent is biologically degradable. As with Kalbskopf, Klose neither discloses nor suggests the present invention to one of ordinary skill in the art, but rather teaches away from it.

An earnest attempt has been made to respond to each and every ground of rejection advanced by the Examiner. However, should the Examiner have any queries, suggestions or comments relating to a speedy disposition of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PEACOCK MYERS, P.C.



By: _____
Jeffrey D. Myers
Reg. No. 35,964
Direct Dial: (505) 998-1502

Attorney for Applicant
P.O. Box 26927
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6927
Phone: (505) 998-1500
Fax: (505) 243-2542

Customer No. 005179

G:\A-CLIENTS\LosStigter\1120VanSluis\VanDerSluis_AMD_after_RCE.doc